



Support Our Troops

P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT

WORK



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Agency says Goodbye to Wardens Gomez and Gonzalez

In two recent ceremonies, the Connecticut Department of Correction bid farewell to two men who have left an indelible mark on the agency. Together, Wardens Giovanni Gomez and Moises Gonzalez represent more than 60 years of correctional expertise. "Correctional professionals such as these are what ensure our daily success and are never easily replaced," said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. Staff at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, met for a luncheon to wish Warden Gomez the best in his future endeavors. His correctional experience reaches back to 1974 and his service to our country in the



DOC Top Administrators pose for a photo at the farewell luncheon held at Brooklyn CI in honor of Warden Gomez. Pictured (L-R) are Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy, North District Administrator Wayne Choinski, Director of Programs Mary Johnson, Warden Giovanni Gomez, and Director of Security Dennis Jones

His career with the DOC, which began in 1985, includes two major milestones that are of great importance to the Department's current success. Warden Gomez served as warden at the Northern Correctional Institution for three years during its critical start up, shaping the mission of that maximum security facility. He then took over the Garner Correctional Institution and spearheaded the change in its mission to a mental health facility.

Continued on Page 2, *Agency Says Goodbye*

Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

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About and for
correctional
professionals

*February 12, 2006 -
February 25, 2006*

Agency Says Goodbye Cont'd

Warden Gonzalez turned the recent monthly warden's meeting into a family affair. Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy wanted to use the occasion to recognize the Warden for his many contributions during his career. As has become his style, Warden Gonzalez wanted his family near as he accepted the recognition of his peers. His career with the DOC stretches back to 1978, when he began as a correctional aide at the Somers State Prison. The agency wishes to express its sincere appreciation and best wishes for the future to these two correctional leaders.



Warden Moises Gonzalez (2nd from Left) poses with his children at his "last" warden's monthly meeting.

Calendar

March 11 - Retirement party at 6pm in honor of Lt. Robert Leone of CTU will be held at LaNotte Restaurant, 17 Thompson Road in East Windsor. The cost is \$25. For tickets contact: Captain McIntosh or Ayesha Camano at 860.623.0241, Lt. Greg Cyr at 203.699.4053, or Lt. Dan Leone at 203.271.5100.

March 17-19 - The 24th Annual Volleyball Marathon to benefit the Easter Seals of Greater Hartford Rehabilitation Center at Trinity College.

March 24 - Retirement party from 6pm until 1am in honor of Officer Rich Carthon will be held at the Best Western Colonial Inn, 161 Bridge Street in East Windsor. Tickets are \$35 per person. For Info contact Mari Quiros at 860.692.7491, Major Adgers at 203.250.2604, or Officer Martins at 860.763.8512.

March 24 - Retirement party from 6pm until 12am in honor of Lt. Chance Martin will be held at Jacques Cartier Club, 1 Wilson Street Extension in Jewett City. The cost is \$25. For tickets contact Warden Martin at 203.250.2602 or Captain DesLaurier at 203.250.3163.

March 31 - Retirement party from 7pm until 11 pm in honor of Captain Edward Saundry of Cheshire CI will be held at The Country House Restaurant, 990 Foxon Road (Route 80) in East Haven. Tickets are \$40 per person and include Buffet and Open Bar. For Info contact Lt. Barnes at 203.250.2774 or Capt. Freeman at 203.250.2684.

April 19-20 Melanie Rieger Memorial Conference Against Violence at MCTSD. *Department of Correction and UCMHC Employee's please refer to page 6 for Rieger Conference Registration Information.*

PRIDE.
AT
Work

February 12 - 25, 2006

Distributed
bi-weekly to 7,000
staff
and via the internet
throughout
Connecticut and the
nation by the
Department
of Correction

24 Wolcott Hill Road,
Wethersfield, CT
06109

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information
Office

telephone:
860.692.7780

fax:
860.692.7783

Wheels for the World

Can you make it to Ghana from Cheshire CI via wheelchair? You could if you were at Cheshire CI on Monday, February 6th. Wheels for the World “Joni’s Friends” scheduled a pick-up via a private trucking company and they loaded an eighteen wheeler with restored wheelchairs and refurbished walkers, canes and crutches. The shipment was headed to Ghana West Africa. Under the supervision of Vocational Instructor Dominick Rossi, inmates at Cheshire CI restored and refurbished over 200 wheelchairs, and over 100 canes, walkers and crutches.



(L-R) Principal Dottie Green, Vocational Instructor Dom Rossi, and Major Jeff Adgers (all of Cheshire CI) pictured with the refurbished items as they are loaded for shipment to Africa.

Wheels for the World aims to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the disabled around the world by providing wheelchairs and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. They also do this by connecting the disabled with the church through creating disability awareness and by educating and training the local churches in disability ministry. Their motto is “Giving the Gift of Mobility with Christ’s Love.”

The World Health Organization estimates that there is a need of over 18 million wheelchairs around the world. In some of these countries the cost of a wheelchair can equal a year’s wages, resulting in the impossibility for people affected by disability to ever receive one. Many of the wheelchair recipients live in isolation and they lack simple mobility.

Wheels for the World through the year 2004 has distributed over 25,000 wheelchairs to over 60 countries and have trained hundreds of ministry and community leaders, including people with disabilities.

Continued on Page 6, See *Wheels*

Around the Cell Block



Netherlands- A new high tech prison features inmate wristbands that track their movements and the ability to monitor cells with motion recognition software.



Massachusetts- The number of babies born to women at the state prison doubled last year to 22 in what prison officials call a coincidence.



California- The DOC is under federal investigation for the use of inmate peace keepers which may have led to the killing of a correction officer and the death of an inmate.



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Bull Market at York CI

Pride at Work, Feb.12 -25, 2006 p.4

The Hartford Courant recognized State School Teacher Pat Forkner's (York CI) morning Business Skills class for placing first in their division in The Hartford Courant Stock Market Simulation (SMS)– Fall 2005 game. For one of the weeks, they also placed in the top 50 teams in the state.

The SMS is a ten-week, real life simulation of buying and selling securities. Its focus is to improve financial literacy. More than 1,000 students in Connecticut participated in the SMS in the fall of 2005. The majority of schools had access to the Internet in their classrooms that allowed for immediate transactions. As the Internet is NOT an option for the Unified School District #1 students, Mrs. Forkner's business skills class studied the Hartford Courant daily as their main resource for gathering information. All student transactions had to be faxed to the Courant and the transactions were based on the closing prices at 4 o'clock.

Ms. Forkner, who began teaching the stock market in 1970 at EO Smith High School in Storrs, is extremely proud of her students at York CI. She said, "Classroom interest and enthusiasm is extremely high among the women." During the ten weeks, the student teams worked hard to analyze the data in the newspaper and to seek out articles that could have a bear or bull influence on the market. She also added, "The fact that The Hartford Courant recognized their efforts makes the experience more rewarding for all."

For their achievement, the team will receive a plaque from The Hartford Courant, a check for \$100 to be used in the classroom, t-shirts and a congratulatory article recognizing their accomplishments in the newspaper. Kudos to Ms. Forkner and her students on a great job.



State School Teacher Pat Forkner takes a moment to pose in her classroom at York CI.

EAP Offers New Lifestyle Benefits

If you have never checked out what's available from the Department of Correction Employee Assistance provider, the new Life Style Benefits they are offering will give you a reason to log onto their website. EAP is now making available to its members special promotions at Bally's Total Fitness, Jenny Craig, Smokenders, Financial Fitness Benefits and Workouts for You, which is an online personal trainer. These benefits are in addition to the assistance and counseling EAP has always offered for such issues as mental health, alcohol and drugs, stress, finances and family matters. The provider has also begun a new program that will be contacting Department of Correction personnel who are returning from active military duty to assist them in returning to civilian life. If you would like to learn more the web address is www.theeap.com.

Supervised
Population
on
February 15,
2006

22,744

On February 15, 2005 the
population was 22,724

Did You Know?...

Pride at Work, Feb.12- 25, 2006 p.5



Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article was written by PFE 1 Jay Harder. If you have questions or you are interested in astronomy, give him a call at 203.806.2667. ***This Did You Know article was in a previous issue of PRIDE, but due to a technical oversight, a critical section was omitted, so we reprinted the article again in its entirety. We apologize for the error.***

A famous astronomer, Carl Sagan, once said, “We are star stuff.” I remember hearing this statement some years ago but never really understood or thought about just what it meant. Whether you feel the creation of man and the universe was an act of God or a natural event I’m not going to dispute. What I’m going to discuss here is how the particles that we are made of were created. I would like to share with you what Carl Sagan meant and just how connected we are to the stars in the sky.

Scientists believe that following the “Big Bang,” which happened about 14 billion years ago, the only things that existed in the expanding universe were the simplest elements, mostly hydrogen, some helium and dust. Hydrogen, as I’m sure you all remember from high school science classes, has only one proton and one electron in its atom while helium has two protons and two electrons. This is all that existed. Nothing more. Look around you, literally everything you see is made up of more complex atoms – carbon, water, stone, oxygen, iron and, of course, us. None of the atoms that make up us, and everything around us, existed when the universe began. So where did these atoms that make up the earth and everything on it come from? The answer is, in the life and death of super massive stars. In the life cycle of a star, its birth starts with huge hydrogen gas clouds, called nebulae, and dust swirling around itself. Through gravitational pull, it starts to collapse in on itself to form a proto-star. This process can go on for millions of years. The more mass the baby star accumulates the stronger its gravitational pull and in turn, the more hydrogen gas is drawn into the star to create more mass. Once a certain amount of mass is reached, the extreme heat caused by pressure at the star’s core will cause these hydrogen atoms to start fusing into helium atoms and voila, you have nuclear fusion and a star is born. Obviously this process is more complex than the way I am describing it, but basically this is how it starts. In stars like our sun, this process of nuclear fusion can go on for billions of years.

Once in a while, in a particularly dense hydrogen cloud, a super giant star will be born. I’m talking about a star hundreds of times bigger than our sun, so big that the earth would be inside the super giant star if we were orbiting it in the same orbit the earth is in now around our sun. These stars fuse all their hydrogen atoms at such a furious rate that in a short time, astronomically speaking, the hydrogen is used up; and now because of the star’s huge size, the star starts to fuse helium into heavier, more complex atoms.

Continued on Page 7, See *Did You Know*

Northern Style Chili



The Northern CI Quality of Work Life Committee recently sponsored a Chili Cook-Off. Staff made several varieties of chili. The meal also included hotdogs, beverages and other assorted food items. Pictured are Warden Jeffrey McGill (Left photo) and various staff members as they participated in the facility sponsored event.



DOC Shows Its Heart with Operation S.A.N.D.Y.

Pride at Work, Feb. 12-25, 2006 p.6

The close knit family support that binds the staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction was much in evidence recently as Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz, and her top managers celebrated Captain Sandra Morton's good health and retirement. During her nearly 18 years with the agency, Captain Morton had survived cancer once, and when it reoccurred, had undergone an experimen-



Warden Michael Lajoie and staff from Corrigan-Radgowski CC as they recognize Captain Morton during the Commissioner's Top Manager's Meeting.



Captain Sandra Morton (L) as Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz (R) presents her with a plaque.

tal treatment. When insurance wouldn't cover the

\$30,000 cost, her fellow staff at Corrigan-Radgowski CC formed Team Sandy and went to work raising the entire amount. Warden Michael Lajoie thanked the team as they gathered at Maloney CTSD. "Coming to Sandy's aid like this, is truly an example of how committed we are to our agency and each other," said Warden Lajoie. The level of support for Captain Morton was reinforced through a video of the motorcycle run and pig roast held last September to support her. The agency wishes her nothing but good health in her well deserved retirement.

SHAC Seeks Members

The Department of Correction Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee is seeking additional committee members. The Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee mission is to continuously strive for a respectful work environment free from sexual harassment, by acting as a forum for all employees working within a correctional setting, to express sexual harassment issues, promote training and research with consistency, guided by departmental policy. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please submit a brief paragraph to the Director of Equal Opportunity Assurance, Robert C. Jackson Jr., stating why you wish to become a member of the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee.

Rieger Conference Info

Department of Correction and UCONN Correctional Managed Health Care Employees DO NOT need to submit the fee when registering for the conference. Staff need to have their Unit Administrator's approval to attend the conference PRIOR to submitting their conference registration form. Registration forms are available on the web at www.melanieriegerconference.com

Wheels Cont'd

Volunteer efforts are concentrated into two divisions; Wheelchair Collection and Wheelchair Restoration. Dedicated volunteers called Chair Corps Area Representatives collect wheelchairs across the United States. Volunteers organize and sponsor community-wide wheelchair drives with local churches, corporate or business sponsors. The meticulous restoration of collected wheelchairs takes place in the U.S. by carefully trained inmates in nine separate correctional facilities in Colorado, Tennessee, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

Manson YI Fatherhood Program on CPTV

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Look for the Manson Youth Institution's Fatherhood Program on Connecticut Public Television this spring. A television crew recently visited a session of the program as it was being conducted in the facility's library. The video will be part of a Public Television series on philanthropy in Connecticut. The Fatherhood Program, which is conducted by Families in Crisis, is funded by the Tow Foundation of Wilton, Connecticut. As part of the television program, a member of that family foundation, Emily Jackson, sat in on the meeting of the Fatherhood Program to see firsthand how their donations are spent. Parenting programs are provided throughout the Connecticut Department of Correction and are an integral part of the agency's efforts to successfully reintegrate offenders back into the community. No firm broadcast date is yet available, but will be passed on as soon as it is established.



CPTV camera crew film the Families in Crisis Parenting Group at Manson YI

Condolences



Warden Robin Sutherland and the staff of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution offer sincere condolences to the family of Correction Officer Robert Roy. Officer Roy, a fourteen year veteran of the agency, was only 39 years old when he succumbed to injuries he sustained during a skiing accident on February 9th. His brother, James Roy is an Officer at Brooklyn CI. He leaves a wife and two children as well as a huge extended family. Our prayers are extended to his family during their time of need.

Did You Know Cont'd

This is where iron, carbon and all the other elements that make up the periodic table are now being made, in the super giant's nuclear furnace. A point is reached where the star can no longer sustain the nuclear fusion, and it explodes in a supernovae explosion blowing out into space all these atoms that were once hydrogen but are now much more complex atoms. The shock wave created by the supernovae explosion will travel for hundreds and thousands of light years through space, and along the way it will encounter other hydrogen gas clouds causing them to compress and start the cycle all over again.

Super giant stars typically live for only millions of years, but scientist have calculated the age of the universe to be just shy of 14 billion years old, so you can see this process has repeated itself over and over again for many billions of years. When earth and our solar system were formed about 4 billion years ago, the hydrogen gas collapsed to the center of the solar system to form our sun. The more complex atoms created from all the earlier supernovas formed the inner planets of our solar system with hydrogen and methane forming the outer gas planets. One super giant star not too far away can be seen easily. If you are familiar with the winter constellation "Orion," the bright red star in the upper left shoulder is "Betelgeuse" also known as Beetlejuice (from the movie). This star is about 425 light years away, is about 600 times the mass of our sun and could explode as a supernova at anytime. When this happens, the only objects in the sky that will be brighter will be our own sun and moon.

This is all very complicated and might be confusing but the gist of what I am trying to get across here is that everything that makes up you, me and almost everything around us is here because the atoms that make us up were created in the life cycle of a super giant star. The next time you are out late at night and gaze up into the starry heavens, think about what Carl Sagan meant when he said, "We are star stuff."